

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes



Date & Time: Thursday, June 27th, 2019 from 2:30-4:00 P.M.

Location: 10151 Montana, Sun Metro Operations Center

Agenda Minutes

I. Welcome/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 2:37 pm with following members present. Committee introduced themselves, as well as city employees that were present.

Member	Appointment	Present
Marc Salazar	District 1	Present
Crystal Garcia	District 2	
Vacant	District 3	
Jose Martinez	District 4	Present
Vacant	District 5	
Mary Castillo	District 6	Present
Josue Rodriguez	District 7	Present
Kimberly Shaw	District 8	Present
Vacant	Mayor	
Julio Perez	Secretary	Present
Omar DelaRosa	Legal	

II. Call to the Public – Public Comment

No public comment

III. Business Items

Approval of Mar 28th Minutes – approved unanimously.

IV. Discussion

A. Selection and approval of new Chairperson

Since Michelle Adjajian is no longer part of the committee, a new Chairperson needs to be selected. Kimberly Shaw nominated Marc Salazar and Josue Rodriguez seconded. The vote was unanimous and Mr. Salazar accepted the position as Chairperson of the AAC.

Since Marc was the Vice Chair – a motion by Josue Rodriguez to nominate Jose Martinez as Vice Chair, seconded by Kimberly Shaw. A vote was unanimous and Jose Martinez accepted the position of Vice Chair of the AAC.

B. Bus stop enhancement update

A presentation by Sun Metro (Robert Mendez):

- Total of 2,862 street bus stops
- 541 have shelters – another 10 slated to be installed.
 - About 10-15 shelters a year are installed
- 178 bus stops have been enhanced since last year, 174 ready for construction
- Kimberly Shaw – what does it mean when a bus stop needs to be enhanced?
 - Pad, curb cut – anything that needs to be enhanced so that it's accessible to passengers.
 - Shelters are not part of the ADA enhancement

The bid process for a new contractor is finalizing – it took longer than usual because it had to be rebid.

C. Discussion and update on District Representative meetings

No updates to provide

There was mention of difficulty meeting with City representatives – a recommendation was to just attend one of their public meetings and ask for a little time.

D. Presentation on Volar's Services

Director of Volar presented a summary of their services:

- 27 centers (CILS) in Texas
- Volar is the third oldest in the State (after Austin, Houston)
- 5 core services
 - Advocacy
 - Volar can help individuals advocate for themselves as well as provide assistance regarding issues of discrimination/advocacy under ADA
 - Information and referral
 - Peer counseling
 - Independent Living Skills training
 - Relocation to/from nursing homes/transition services
 - 2-3 people are assisted on a monthly basis
 - If relocation is not possible/desired, a voucher assistance program (housing choice voucher under section 8) is also available
- Other Services:
 - Income-based services for mobility devices or disability aids
 - A small co-pay fee or it can be waived based on income

- Much of the budget goes to hearing aids – it’s growing a lot in the county – especially if medical insurance companies won’t pay for it
- To qualify, the citizen calls Volar and an appointment is made to assess their needs and provide what requirements are in place.
- As long as they live within the state of Texas, they would qualify (no legal documentation is required – even a letter from someone certifying they live in the state) – employment is not required
- If the person is going to school is employed – they may be referred to the state for financial assistance
- Prosthetics, wheelchairs and hearing aids are the most common types of devices people receive.
 - There’s such a high demand for these items, there’s a waiting list
 - Volar tries to provide the services as soon as possible – but it may take months
 - Volar uses all the funds allocated on a consistent basis
- Funding comes from the state – allotted based on population (County)
- If a center does not spend all the funds, it can be allocated to other agencies
- Volar cannot make ADA-related improvements (remodeling)
- There’s another program to help individuals with social security advocacy
- Support services program for advocacy – and partners with other agencies such as ADAPT. For example – years ago, Volar did a lot of work into making sure that the local movie theatres were ADA-compliant.
 - All employees are involved in some level of advocacy – some are more experienced than others
- Volar has access to a list of facilities/apartments in El Paso
- Volar is also available (at times for a fee) for ADA sensitivity training

E. Discussion of potential agenda items for next meeting

Next meeting: July 25th, 2019 – 2:30-4:00pm.

V. Adjournment – 4:00 PM